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SEP 0 5 2002 ECH CENTER 1600/2900 ECH CENTER DOCKET P2548P1C18

#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Kevin P. Baker et al.

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Serial No.: 09/944944

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Filed: 8/31/2001

Yvonne Carter

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

6/

Prior to substantive examination of the above captioned patent application, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered.

## In the specification:

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1, line 2:

#### --RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, US Application 09/866028 filed 5/25/2001, which is a continuation of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, PCT Application PCT/US99/28301 filed 12/1/1999, which claims priority under 35 USC §119 to US Provisional Application 60/113296 filed 12/22/1998, and US Provisional Application 60/112850 filed 12/16/99, where PCT/US99/28301 is a continuation-in-part of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, US Application 09/254311 filed 3/3/1999, now abandoned, which is the National Stage filed under 35